

Ms. Phyllis Seidman, for overcoming many obstacles in her life and becoming an inspiration to many others, in spite of having a progressive disability caused by multiple sclerosis.

Mr. Russell J. Tershy, for his commitment to providing individuals with the necessary training to find meaningful and well-paying employment, as the cofounder of the Center for Employment Training [CET] and its executive director.

Ms. Norma Williams, for finding the time to tutor Vietnamese and Chinese speaking people in English and instructing ESL classes, by using her background as a teacher.

Ms. Erica R. Yew, for devoting her time to providing emotional support, educational help, and fun outings for three young girls, as a child advocate for the past 3 years.

To all of these individuals who have given of themselves for the service of others, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending heartfelt congratulations.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO EXCLUDE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FROM TAXATION

### HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 23, 1995*

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, Mr. OLVER and I rise today to introduce legislation that would exclude from gross income unemployment compensation benefits.

All the newspapers tell us that the economy is strong and that unemployment is down. Such headlines, however, mask a number of other things going on in the economy. First, in some regions of the country, including my home State of Connecticut, the recovery has lagged. In addition, the low unemployment rate belies the uncertainty and seemingly never ending corporate restructuring that continues despite the recovery. Second, while more Americans may have a job now than in the past few years, they are faced with paying income tax on unemployment compensation benefits at the same time they struggle to make ends meet.

In these 100 days we will debate tax cuts of all kinds. And we will debate who will benefit and who won't. I happen to think not taxing unemployment compensation is just about the most important tax cut we could provide for American families. The old days of working for a corporation for life are gone forever. A good deal of the unease felt by American families today stems from living in this global economy where you don't know from day to day where you have a job despite good performance reviews. This isn't a tax cut we have to debate because on any given day, any American could find him/herself unemployed.

We can't change the global economy but we can make commonsense changes to help every American breathe a little easier. I would urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support this legislation.

SALUTE TO TONI MORRISON: NATIVE DAUGHTER AND NOBEL LAUREATE

### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 23, 1995*

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, at the close of the 103d Congress, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus paused to salute the much celebrated Nobel Prize winner in literature, novelist Toni Morrison. Our colleague CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN preserved for posterity a fitting tribute to the life work and literary excellence of the Nation's most recent winner. As Howard University brings together on Friday, March 3, hundreds who gather to celebrate the extraordinary legacy of Toni Morrison; the members of the Congressional Black Caucus return to the words so eloquently spoken of her by Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN.

Ms. Morrison is the first American woman to win this signal honor in 55 years, the third American over a period of more than two decades, and the only African-American ever. As an element of this historic backdrop, it is noted that the Nobel Committee of the Swedish Academy has selected only two other African-American Laureates since the inception of this momentous ceremony—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and U.S. Ambassador Ralph Bunche—who both were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Of the numerous tributes which followed the announcement of 1994's prize for literature, the most animated have been those of her peers. In the words of contemporary novelist Alice Walker: "No one writes more beautifully than Toni Morrison. She has consistently explored issues of true complexity and terror and love in lives of African-Americans." Indeed the Nobel Committee's announcement stated that "Ms. Morrison gives life to an essential aspect of American reality" in novels "characterized by visionary force and poetic import."

Calling her "a literary artist of the first rank" the Academy's statement went further to say that "She delves into the language itself, a language she wants to liberate from the fetters of race. And she addresses us with luster of poetry."

A Princeton University professor, Morrison is the author of "Song of Solomon" winner of the National Book Critics Award, the Pulitzer Award winning "Beloved" published in 1987, the critically acclaimed 1992 work entitled "Jazz," along with other lyrically narrated novels on African-American life. The 1993-94 Nobel Laureate in Literature was born Chloe Anthony Wofford in Loraine, OH, shortly after the onset of the Great Depression—the second of four children of sharecroppers and granddaughter of an Alabama slave. Reared in a low-income, integrated neighborhood, Morrison drew from this experience and the nurturing of her parents and inherited a gifted legacy and sense of history which permeates her works. Ms. Morrison, not surprisingly, learned to read at an early age and was the only child in her class to enter first grade with that skill. She would later earn a bachelor's degree in English from Howard University in Washington, DC, and a master's degree in English from Cornell University.

Her academic career would touch both historically black colleges and universities includ-

ing Texas Southern University in Houston, and Howard University, as well as New York State University campuses at Albany and Purchase, NY, and as a prolific essayist and playwright.

Toni Morrison, through her creative genius and vision has shown us how our culture teaches us and how our past can influence our future. She gives us the promise of good things to those who are true to their cultural ancestry.

As the chairman and on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, I join in this salute to her literary excellence and inspiration. The tribute that is made by the establishment of an endowed chair and professorship in the name of her mentor and the gifted writer and author, Sterling Allen Brown, is an appropriate gift to the African-American community and our Nation as a whole. Toni Morrison is indeed Howard's, the continent of Africa and Black America's native daughter. For, Mr. Speaker, in ways that few others have, Toni Morrison gives us inspiration to prevail in times where there is only the beauty and integrity of our language, our spirit, and our history to sustain us.

#### IN HONOR OF RAFAEL, ONE OF LATIN AMERICA'S MOST TAL- ENTED PERFORMERS

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 23, 1995*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor to one of Latin America's greatest performers, Rafael. A true symbol of Spanish culture, Rafael has dazzled and entertained us with his magnificent talent.

A native Andalucian, Rafael moved to Madrid at a very tender age. While in Madrid Rafael began singing at the age of 5, thus began a singing career that would entertain and awe audiences worldwide. He won first prize for Best Voice in the children's category at the Salzburg Music Festival in Austria, an award that is of great prestige and acclaim. He began his professional singing career at the age of 14 and since then he has starred in several films, TV series, and innumerable musical specials. He has entertained and sung to millions of adoring fans.

Rafael is the only Latin American singer to win the Uranium Record Award. He has built one of the most successful singing careers selling over 78 million records, an achievement that made him one of the highest selling entertainers in the world. He has also been awarded 318 gold records and 46 platinum records. He has recorded a total of 70 LP's, 55 of them in Spanish.

His unique singing style has won him much praise. He has received countless standing ovations from crowds all over the world, from Russia to the United States. He has sung before sold out crowds at Madison Square Garden, the place where he made his first American appearance. Rafael has also appeared in other renowned theaters such as the Opera House in Sydney, Australia, the Kennedy Center in Washington, Carnegie Hall in New York City, the Theatre of the Opera in Leningrad and Moscow just to name a few. He has won